

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
13

14 _____
15 SERGIO CERVANTES-NAVARRO,

16 Petitioner,

17 v.

18 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

19 Respondent.
20 _____

)
)
) Cr. No. 11-2876GT
) Cv. No. 11-2796GT

) **ORDER**
)
)
)

21 On November 30, 2011, Petitioner, Sergio Cervantes-Navarro ("Mr. Cervantes"), filed a
22 Motion for Time Reduction, presumably pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Mr. Cervantes requests a
23 two level downward departure based on his status as a deportable alien, which Mr. Cervantes
24 asserts "should have been considered as a mitigating factor" at his sentencing. The Court has fully
25 considered this matter, including a review of Mr. Cervantes's brief filed, the authorities cited
26 therein and the arguments presented. For the reasons stated below, Mr. Cervantes's Motion for
Time Reduction is **DENIED**.

27 //

28 //

1 First, Mr. Cervantes pled guilty, pursuant to a written plea agreement, to one count of
2 Attempted Entry After Deportation, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b). In the written plea
3 agreement, Mr. Cervantes explicitly waived his right to appeal and/or collaterally attack his
4 conviction or sentence. The Ninth Circuit has long acknowledged that the terms of a plea
5 agreement are enforceable. *See, United States v. Baramdyka*, 95 F.3d 840, 843 (9th Cir. 1996),
6 *cert. denied*, 117 S.Ct. 1282 (1997). Since Mr. Cervantes expressly waived his statutory right to
7 appeal or collaterally attack his sentence in his plea agreement, Mr. Cervantes is now precluded
8 from challenging that sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. *See, United States v. Abarca*, 985
9 F.2d 1012, 1014 (9th Cir. 1993) (holding that a knowing and voluntary waiver of a statutory right
10 is enforceable).

11 Moreover, even if Mr. Cervantes had not expressly waived his right to appeal or collaterally
12 attack his sentence, his petition would still fail. In essence, Mr. Cervantes argues that because of
13 his status as a deportable alien, he is “ineligible[] for pre-release custody and minimum security
14 confinement.” Mr. Cervantes argues that the Court should grant him a reduction in his sentence
15 because of his status. However, Mr. Cervantes’s argument that the Court should reduce his
16 sentence because he is a deportable alien is precluded by statute and current Ninth Circuit case law.
17 By statute, the Court may depart downward only if there are “aggravating or mitigating
18 circumstances . . . not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission.” 18
19 U.S.C. § 3553(b). Specifically, the Ninth Circuit has held that the threat of deportation is not a
20 factor that the district court may consider for sentencing purposes. *United States v. Alvarez-*
21 *Cardenas*, 902 F.2d 734, 737 (9th Cir. 1990).¹ Accordingly,

22 //

23 //


24 //

25
26 ¹ The Ninth Circuit decided, in an unpublished opinion, that the defendant, like Limon, was not
27 entitled to a six month reduction in his sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b) because as a
28 deportable alien he is not eligible to spend the last six months of his sentence in a half way
house pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3624(c). *See United States v. Zepeda-Valles*, 87 F.3d 1325 (9th
Cir. 1996).

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

IT IS ORDERED that Mr. Cervantes's Motion for Time Reduction is **DENIED**.
IT IS SO ORDERED.

12/12/12
date


GORDON THOMPSON, JR.
United States District Judge

cc: AUSA Bruce Castetter

Petitioner